

A Supplement To Dr. Bernard Heuvelmans's Checklist of Cryptozoological Animals

The truth is, that folk's fancy that such and such things cannot be, simply because they have not seen them, is worth no more than a savage's fancy that there cannot be such a thing as a locomotive, because he never saw one running wild in the forest.

CHARLES KINGSLEY—THE WATER-BABIES

THE FOLLOWING CHAPTER CONSTITUTES IN ITS entirety and in largely unmodified form the cryptozoological checklist supplement of mine that was originally published in 1998 within *Fortean Studies* (vol. 5), and includes its accompanying self-contained bibliography.

Summarizing more than a hundred cryptids, Dr. Bernard Heuvelmans's "Annotated Checklist of Apparently Unknown Animals With Which Cryptozoology Is Concerned" (Heuvelmans, 1986) was arguably his most significant publication since *Sur la Piste des Bêtes Ignorées* (Heuvelmans, 1955). A slightly updated version, in French, was published in 1996, containing a few amendments (Heuvelmans, 1996). Otherwise, more than a decade has passed since this list originally appeared, during which period a considerable number of additional cryptids, previously unknown even to cryptozoologists, have attracted attention.

Some of these are mystery animals that had been documented in publications only recently perused for the first time by readers knowledgeable in cryptozoological matters; hence cryptozoologists had not been aware of their existence before. In other instances, mystery beasts never recorded in any publication, cryptozoological or otherwise, have been mentioned during conversations between local people and visiting scientists, explorers, or travelers.

As someone who has been working on a full-time professional basis in cryptozoology for many years, I have amassed an archive of material dealing with these hitherto overlooked cryptids that is now sufficiently sizeable to warrant the preparation of the first detailed supplement to Heuvelmans's checklist, as now presented here. To facilitate consistency, the format of this supplement adheres to that of the original checklist wherever possible.

Similarly, necessarily echoing portions of Heuvelmans's own introduction to his list, I must point out that this supplement is by no means complete. Obviously, I have not been able to read through every single book and journal ever published in search of cryptozoologically relevant reports. Equally, however, I have refrained from including examples that I do have on file but which I consider to be dubious or too vague to warrant coverage here. Also, please bear in mind that the inclusion in this supplement of a given cryptid does not guarantee its distinction from all living taxa currently recognized by science. Some may merely be morphs or aberrant individuals of recognised taxa. Furthermore, however rigorously any cryptozoological case is examined, the shadow of possible misidentification or outright fraud can never be entirely dispelled in the absence of conclusive physical evidence to examine.

Unlike Heuvelmans, I have included various creatures that officially became extinct during the earlier part of the 20th century but which may still survive today. In such cases, their continuing existence has yet to be recognized by science but they are known to local people, thereby complying with Heuvelmans's own definition of a cryptid (Heuvelmans, 1982; Greenwell, 1984). In addition, they

include examples that have been extensively investigated and hence have focused public attention on cryptozoological research, such as the thylacine (Tasmanian wolf) and the eastern cougar.

Amendments to some of Heuvelmans's proposed identities for certain cryptids in his checklist have been proposed and published by fellow cryptozoologists since 1986. The most significant of these are presented here in an addendum, together with additional amendments and alternative identities that I consider merit mentioning in any supplement to that list.

Lastly: in contrast to Heuvelmans's checklist, which did not contain bibliographical references for all of the cryptids listed in it, every cryptid account included here is accompanied by references that can be consulted for further details.

MARINE FORMS

Extraordinary marine cryptids characterized by a profuse covering of white fur, a lengthy tail, and a long elephantine trunk or trunk-like proboscis at the anterior end of their body. The carcass of one such creature was washed ashore at Margate, South Africa, in November 1922; another was beached on Alaska's Glacier Island in November 1936 (Heuvelmans, 1968; Chorvinsky, 1995; Shuker, 1997d). It could be argued that these were merely decomposing sharks or whales, and that their white fur was nothing more than dried-out connective tissue. If this is true, however, the manner in which decomposition can "create" their anomalous trunk-like appendage remains unresolved. In any event, a sizeable number of eyewitnesses had observed the Margate specimen while still alive, battling with two whales—and fully furred. Only later did its dead body wash ashore. Clearly, therefore, its fur cannot be explained away as decomposing connective tissue. Based upon eyewitness descriptions, the morphology of these trunked sea monsters cannot be reconciled with any known species, living or fossil. They are presumably mammalian, but without physical remains to examine it is not possible to progress further at this time in search of a satisfactory identity.

Unidentified mysticete (baleen) whale distinguished from all known species by possessing two dorsal fins, both erect, triangular, and well developed. Roughly 60 feet long, with greenish-grey back, long falciform flippers, and greyish-white underparts. Dubbed the rhinoceros whale, its principal record is a sighting made off the coast of Chile on September 4, 1867, by Italian naturalist Prof. Enrico Giglioli, who named this species *Amphiptera pacifica*. Reports of similar beasts have since been logged off Scotland, and from the Mediterranean near Corsica (Raynal & Sylvestre, 1991; Heuvelmans, 1996; Shuker, 1997d).

Mysterious greyish-black whale, roughly 25 feet long, and sporting a very distinctive, erect dorsal fin, at least five feet high, on the highest part of its back, sighted near Chilaw on Sri Lanka's western coast on April 7, 1868, by E.W.H. Holdsworth, a Fellow of the Zoological Society of London. He later learned that this unidentified whale was familiar to his vessel's crew, who called it the "Palmyra fish" (its fin presumably reminding them of the tall erect palmyra tree common in their native Malabar home). Holdsworth was convinced that it was not a killer whale, the only known cetacean with a dorsal fin resembling his whale's (Holdsworth, 1872; Shuker, 1997d).

Unidentified dolphin with brown upperparts and white belly, two specimens spied by Sir Peter Scott on February 4, 1968, among a school of piebald dolphins *Cephalorhynchus commersonii* in the Magellan Straits. They could simply have been white-bellied dolphins (formerly *C. albiventris*); if not, they may represent a new species (Scott, 1983; Shuker, 1997d).

Single-tusked, narwhal-like cetacean spied in the Antarctic Ocean's Bransfield Strait on December 17, 1892, by crewmen aboard the *Balaena* during the Dundee Antarctic Expedition of 1892-1893. As *Monodon monoceros*, the only known living species of narwhal, is confined to Arctic waters, if their sighting was accurate there

would seem to be an undiscovered southern counterpart in the Antarctic Ocean (Murdoch, 1894; Shuker, 1997d).

Dimorphic mystery ziphiid (beaked whale) often reported from the eastern tropical Pacific, occurring as a black-and-white morph and as a uniformly grey-brown morph. Dr. Robert L. Pitman has suggested that if not a new species or subspecies, it may be Longman's beaked whale *Indopacetus pacificus* (Pitman, 1987; Shuker, 1993b).

Alleged manatee-like aquatic mammals reported from sea around the mid-Atlantic island of St. Helena. It has been suggested that these are elephant seals, not sirenians, but no formal investigation has so far been undertaken (Lydekker, 1899; Shuker, 1993a).

Possible existence of unrecorded populations of the coelacanth *Latimeria chalumnae*, or even an undescribed related species, in the Mexican Gulf, and perhaps also in the coastal waters of Easter Island (Fricke, 1989; Shuker, 1993b; Raynal & Mangiacopra, 1995; Shuker, 1995f).

Giant rat-tails (macrourids)—one, six feet long, spied in deepwater near Bermuda in 1930s; another, almost 10 feet long, just above Mexican Gulf seafloor in late 1960s (Soule, 1981).

Several named but still uncollected, unphotographed species of fish spied and documented by biologist William Beebe while observing marine fauna 2,100 feet beneath the surface of the sea in a bathysphere located five miles southeast of Bermuda's Nonsuch Island. These include *Bathysphaera intacta* (a highly novel species of melanostomiid), *Bathyceratias trilyncus* (angler fish with three "fishing rods"), *Bathyembrix istiophasma* (bizarre torpedo-shaped fish with large triangular posterior fins), *Bathysidus pentagrammus* (five-starred butterfly fish), and the scientifically unnamed abyssal rainbow gar (Beebe, 1934; Shuker, 1993b).

An unusual but very large form of shark, lacking a prominent dorsal fin, and lying in wait for its prey on the sea floor; known locally as the ground shark, and inhabiting the Timor Sea. Conceivably a giant form of wobbegong or carpet shark (Ley, 1941; Shuker, 1997d).

Colossal sharks occasionally spied in the South Pacific, closely resembling the great white shark *Carcharodon carcharias* but much longer and sometimes pure white in color; termed the Lord of the Deep by Polynesian fishermen. Sightings support the possible survival into modern times of the megalodon shark *Carcharocles megalodon*, which is known to have attained a total length of at least 43 feet (i.e. twice that of the great white), and may have survived until as recently as the Pleistocene's close (Ellis & McCosker, 1991; Shuker, 1995f, 1997d).

Strikingly marked manta ray, with a 10-foot wingspan. Predominantly dark brown and faintly mottled, but with conspicuous white wing-tips and a pair of broad pure-white bands extending halfway down the back from each side of its head. Spied by William Beebe and crew members of his vessel *Noma* on April 27, 1923, as they sailed toward Tower Island in the Galapagos Archipelago, when the ray collided with *Noma* and then sped off along the sea's surface. No known species of manta possesses its white markings, and its cephalic horns were more straight than incurved, unlike those of other mantas (Beebe, 1924). A somewhat similar manta was filmed in the 1980s off southern Baja California (Sehm, 1996; Shuker, 1999).

Planctosphaera pelagica, a mysterious acorn worm (enteropneust) species, whose adult form is still unrecognized by science. Its tornaria larva, resembling a transparent gooseberry-sized sphere and much larger than the tornaria of any known acorn worm, was first seen in 1932, when the *Michael Sars* Deep-Sea Expedition collected two specimens at a depth of 830 feet from the plankton of the North Atlantic's Bay of Biscay (Spengel, 1932; Shuker, 1993b).

Lophenteropneusts—name given to a taxon (conceivably a class) of hitherto-unknown and still uncollected invertebrates whose morphology resembles a combination of features from the two presently recognized classes of the invertebrate phylum *Hermichordata*, i.e. the acorn worms (*Enteropneusta*) and the pterobranchs (*Pterobranchia*). Lophenteropneusts were first photographed in 1962, during the PROA Expedition of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California, employing the research vessel "Spencer F. Baird," which took approximately four thousand photos of the sea bottom at hadal depths in five trenches in the South-West Pacific. Various of these photos depicted continuous coils and/or loops of fecal strings on the sea floor, some of which revealed an animal present at the end of the string. Measuring two to four inches long, these animals had a cylindrical hyaline body, with an anterior ring of tentacles, thus resembling pterobranchs, and a terminal anus, as in acorn worms (Lemche, et al., 1976).

Mysterious marine arthropod, never collected, but photographed several times at depths of approximately 13,616 feet in the Peru Basin on February 12, 1989, during the expedition DISCOL 1 (Disturbance and Recolonization Experiment in a Manganese Nodule Area of the Deep South Pacific). It possesses a small triangular fore-body measuring 0.52 inches long, and a hind-body measuring two inches long, separated from the fore-body by a narrow waist. The fore-body has five pairs of appendages, all jointed. The last three pairs seem to be long, slender walking legs. The first pair may function as feelers or assist in food uptake. The second pair is carried high above the body, mostly slightly bent downwards, and is even longer than the walking legs. This cryptid has been tentatively placed within the chelicerate class *Arachnida*, near to the amblypygids (*Pedipalpi*), and if correctly classified would constitute the first living species of deepwater marine arachnid (Thiel & Shriever, 1989).

Mystery squid represented only by paralarval specimens, described in 1991. Although only tiny, these paralarvae are very distinctive, with big eyes and possessing a pair of strikingly large lateral fins, on account of which this squid has been aptly dubbed "big-fin." Its taxonomic family, genus, and species are presently unknown. It may constitute the juvenile of an undescribed big-finned adult squid form videoed alive in several deepwater regions by submersibles during recent years but so far uncaptured (Young, 1991; Shuker, 2002b).

Unidentified, extra-large form of marine polychaete worm, some specimens of which may measure upward of 15 feet long, often observed by guests at the Anse Chastanet resort in Soufrière, St. Lucia, during night dives on the beach-access reef here, and popularly termed "The Thing." Partial specimens (all lacking the head) have been obtained. McGill University polychaete expert Dr. Susan Marsden deems it likely that "The Thing" belongs to the family Eunicidae. It could be a new, currently undescribed species, or an example of gigantism in a known species. A giant polychaete may also exist in the sea off Barbados (Roesch, 1996).

Colossal specimens of scyphozoan jellyfish, some with enormously long tentacles and typical bells, reported from Bermuda and the environs of Fiji; others of flattened shape, lacking tentacles, and of deepwater habitat, possibly including the legendary *hide* of Chile (Mangiacopra, 1976; Shuker, 1995f, 1997d).

FRESHWATER FORMS

(1) In Cold Temperate Lakes and Rivers In Europe (Palearctic Region):

Aquatic mystery beast from Ireland known as the *dobhar-chú*, resembling a giant otter and also referred to as a master or king otter. Traditionally mythical, but one such beast is also claimed to have been the killer of a young woman called Grace Connolly, who was fatally attacked one morning in September 1722 while bathing

in County Leitrim's Glenade Lake, near her home. Her grave still exists in Conwall Cemetery in the townland of Drummans, and on the tombstone is carved a distinctive otter-headed canine-bodied animal representing the *dobhar-chú*. Moreover, sightings of a mysterious quadrupedal beast closely resembling the creature sculpted on Connolly's tombstone were made near Sraheens Lough in Achill Island, County Mayo (to the west of County Leitrim), as recently as May 1968. Unless an unusually large version of the European otter *Lutra lutra* is involved, the *dobhar-chú* remains unexplained (Tohall, 1948; Shuker, 1995c, 1997d, 1998f, 1999).

In Cold Temperate Asia (Palearctic Region):

Giant salmon-like fishes, reputedly more than 30 feet long, and bright red in color with spiny dorsal fin, regularly spied in Lake Hanas, within China's Xinjiang Autonomous Region, by locals for several decades, and even by eminent Xinjiang University biologist Prof. Xiang Lihao during a student field trip there in 1985. Claimed by skeptics to be nothing more than the huchen (taimen) *Hucho taimen*, but this species does not exceed six and a half feet (Greenwell (ed.), 1986; Shuker, 1993b, 1997d).

In North Africa and Middle East (Palearctic Region):

Small but lethal black fish allegedly inhabiting Iran's Shatt al Arab River and currently unidentified by science, but said to have killed 28 people with a swift-acting venomous bite (Caras, 1975). If true, it could be related to *Meiacanthus nigrolineatus*, a small blue-grey and yellow species of freshwater blenny inhabiting the Red Sea and the Gulf of Suez and Aqaba. This fish does have a venomous bite, though it has not been shown to be fatal. Alternatively, it may be based upon confused reports of a small black catfish called *Heteropneustes fossilis*, which has poisonous spines in its pectoral fins, and which was fairly recently introduced into the Shatt al Arab River from Thailand and India as a food fish. There is even the possibility that young long-tailed moray eels *Thyrsoidea macrura*,

swimming up the river from the sea, are implicated, as their bite can cause septic wounds (Shuker, 1996c).

In North America (Nearctic Region):

Very large type of salamander reportedly five to nine feet long, claimed to inhabit deep lakes in Trinity Alps, the Sacramento River, and elsewhere in California. Certain reports were based upon an escapee Chinese giant salamander *Megalobatrachus davidianus* called Benny. However, some authorities believe that others imply the existence of unrecorded populations of the American giant salamander (hellbender) *Cryptobranchus alleganiensis*, officially known only from the eastern U.S., or even an undiscovered American species of *Megalobatrachus* (Rodgers, 1962; Coleman, 1989; Shuker, 1995f). There are also reports of extra-large pink-colored salamander-like creatures, sighted in New Jersey and Florida, which may represent an albinistic morph of a giant salamander species (Hall, 1992; Shuker, 1995f).

(2) IN TROPICAL LAKES, RIVERS, AND SWAMPS

In Asia (Oriental Region):

Extra-large form of freshwater turtle, up to six and a half feet long, recently sighted and videoed in Hoan Kiem Lake, situated in modern-day central Hanoi, Vietnam, and also represented by a stuffed but unclassified specimen presently exhibited at a small temple on an island in this lake. According to Hanoi National University biologist Prof. Ha Dinh Duc, who is studying this sizeable freshwater chelonian, it is likely to prove to be a new species (Shuker, 1998g).

A six-foot-long species of lungfish in Vietnam, judging from excellent first-hand anecdotal reports collected by Dr. Roy P. Mackal (Shuker, 1991b).

Unidentified mudskipper-like fish observed in a river on the Indonesian island of Seram (Ceram) by tropical agriculturalist Tyson

Hughes in 1986, and which glows a bright pulsating red color at night. Hughes attempted to catch a specimen, but was unsuccessful (Shuker, 1995b, 1999; Gibbons, 1997).

In Africa (Ethiopian Region):

Greatly feared aquatic cryptid from Burundi known as the *mamba mutu*. Local eyewitnesses (mostly from villages on the shores of Lake Tanganyika and along the Lukuga River) describe it as half-human, half-fish, in the classic mermaid mold. However, they also firmly believe that it kills people, eats their brains, and sucks their blood. It has been suggested that a lake-dwelling population of African manatees, transformed by native superstition into vampiric monsters, may be the solution; or that an unknown species of giant flat-skulled otter is involved (Bonet, 1995).

In Central and South America (Neotropical Region):

Aquatic feline beasts with large canine teeth and yellowish, unpatterned pelage, reported from Patagonia (*yaquaru*), Guyana (*maipolina*), also called water-tigers. Often confused with otter-like *iemisch* and ground sloth-like *ellengassen*. Possibly a surviving machairodontid (sabre-toothed cat), secondarily adapted for an amphibious existence and thus paralleling Africa's so-called water-lions, water-panthers, and water-leopards (Shuker, 1989, 1995f).

Anomalous pink river dolphin, resembling the boto (inia) *Inia geoffrensis*, except for its dorsal fin, which, instead of being triangular, possesses a regular series of notched projections, so that it resembles the edge of a circular saw. Seen, photographed, and filmed on two separate occasions during the mid-1990s by English writer/explorer Jeremy Wade in and near a lake beside one of the Amazon's countless southern tributaries in Brazil. Known to the native people and possibly constituting a rare freak of nature, as the precisely formed shape of the notches would seem to eliminate an injury-induced explanation for its "sawtooth" dorsal fin (Wade, 1996; Shuker, 1997f).

Huge toothless shark claimed by Lieut.-Col. Percy Fawcett to exist in the Paraguay River, and given to attacking and swallowing people if presented with the opportunity (Fawcett, 1953). Yet very few sharks inhabit fresh water, and those that do are far from toothless. Assuming, therefore, that it is not some dramatically new species of shark, it has been tentatively suggested that this aquatic cryptid may be a giant sturgeon (Grayson, 1998). More likely, however, is that it is a species of giant catfish, some of which are indeed toothless, and there are already more species of catfish documented from South America than from anywhere else in the world (Shuker, 2000).

TERRESTRIAL FORMS

(1) In Europe (Palearctic Region):

Hungarian reedwolf—mysterious canid of controversial identity often reported from Hungary and eastern Austria until early 1900s, but may now be extinct. Many believe that it is a small race of wolf, but others still favor an extra-large form of common jackal. Time for DNA analyses, utilizing museum skins? (Éhik, 1937-1938; Tratz, 1958; Shuker, 1991b).

Unidentified, brown-colored, burrow-dwelling lizard, one foot long, with orange-sized head, pronounced dewlap, and long tongue; known locally as the *cenaprugwirion*, or *genaprugwirion* ("daft flycatcher"), and reported from Abersoch, North Wales (Wallis, 1987). Presumably comprising a naturalized population of some non-native species of lizard, originating from accidental escapes of specimens from private collections into the wild. An extremely remote but tantalizing alternative is a naturalized population of New Zealand's famous lizard-like "living fossil," the tuatara *Sphenodon punctatus*—a very hardy, long-lived, burrow-dwelling species of comparable size and appearance, which was often maintained in captivity in Britain during the 19th century (Shuker, 1997b, 1997d).

Controversial population of chameleons discovered around Pylos Lagoon, Greece, by biologist-photographer Andrea Bonetti; studied by her since 1996. Larger than the European chameleon *Chamaeleo chamaeleon*, they bear a much closer (but not exact) similarity to the African chameleon *C. africanus*. If not conspecific with the latter, it is conceivable that these previously overlooked lizards represent a new species (Bonetti, 1998).

(2) In Cold Temperate Asia (Palearctic Region):

Extremely large, snow-white bear with small head and strange ambulatory gait, reported from Russia's Kamchatka peninsula and known to local reindeer hunters as the *irkuiem* or *irquiem*. Currently represented by at least one skin (exhibited at the St. Petersburg Museum), in the opinion of renowned Russian zoologist Prof. Nikolaj Vereshchagin it may be a modern-day representative of the Pleistocene short-faced (bulldog) bear *Arctodus simus* (Greenwell (ed.), 1987; Shuker, 1995f, 1997d).

Mysterious white bird referred to as Steller's sea raven, sighted by German naturalist Georg Steller on far-eastern Russia's Bering Island during the 1740s but apparently never seen again. Danish zoologist Lars Thomas considers it possible that this bird was a young (or even albinistic) spectacled cormorant *Phalacrocorax perspicillatus*—a species also discovered in this region by Steller but now extinct. Alternatively, it may have been some species now known to science but unfamiliar to Steller, such as the surfbird *Aphriza virgata*, nominated as one option by Steller scholar Chris Orrick (Shuker, 1999, 2000).

Vermiform mystery beast reportedly inhabiting the southern Gobi desert, known to Westerners as the Mongolian death worm, and to nomadic Mongolians as the *allghoi khorkhoi* ("intestine worm"), on account of its supposed resemblance to a cow's intestine. It looks like a fat dark-red worm, three to five feet long, with no differenti-

ated head, tail, or limbs, and spends much of its time hidden beneath sands, but is occasionally spied resting on the surface during June and July. Avoided by humans, camels, and other large species, the death worm is so-named because it can reputedly squirt a lethal corrosive poison from one end of its body, and can also supposedly kill in a much more mysterious manner, resembling electrocution. It has been sought in recent years by Czech explorer Ivan Mackerle (Mackerle, 1996; Shuker, 1998a). If its lethal capabilities are merely the product of folklore, the death worm could be a giant species of amphisbaenid, or even (albeit much more radically) a highly specialized species of earthworm with a water-retentive cuticle. If its death-dealing abilities are real, however, it is more likely to be a dramatic new species of snake, possibly an elapid akin to the Australian death adder *Acanthophis antarcticus* (Shuker, 1998a).

(3) In North Africa and the Middle East (Palearctic Region):

Qattara cheetah of Egypt—reports date back to the late 1960s, and include a specimen taken by a Bedouin shepherd in 1967, but none observed by scientists so far, although cheetah-like tracks have been photographed in the Qattara region on two separate occasions during the 1990s. It is said to be paler in color and with a thicker coat than the typical cheetah from eastern and southern Africa. Probably similar to the little-known desert-adapted cheetahs with speckled, sandy pelage living in Niger's Tenere Desert, West Africa, and photographed for the first time as recently as the early 1990s (Ammann, 1993; Hoath, 1996).

(4) In Tropical Asia (Oriental Region):

While visiting the tiny Indonesian island of Rintja, close to Komodo, French traveler Pierre Pfeiffer collected native reports of a mysterious beast called the veo (Pfeiffer, 1963). At least 10 feet long, the veo has a long head, huge claws, and is covered dorsally and laterally with large overlapping scales, but has hair upon its head,

throat, belly, lower legs, and the end of its tail. If threatened, it will rear up on its hind legs and slash its antagonist with the formidable claws on its forepaws. Inhabiting mountains during the day, but descending to the mangrove coasts at night, it lives upon ants, termites, and small sea creatures stranded on the beach. This description recalls the pangolins (scaly anteaters), but none of those species known to exist today is as big as the veo. During the Pleistocene, however, a giant species, *Manis palaeojavanicus*, over eight feet long, lived in Borneo and Java. Perhaps this species or a modern descendant persists today on Rintja (Mareš, 1997; Shuker, 1998h; Shuker, 1999).

While working for the VSO (Voluntary Service Overseas) in Seram, Indonesia, during 1986, tropical agriculturalist Tyson Hughes heard native accounts of a mysterious entity called the *orang bati* ("flying man"). Villagers in Seram's coastal regions live in terror of these creatures, which, they claim, live in long-dead volcanic mountains in the island's interior. At night, they leave their mountain lairs and fly across the jungles to the coast, where they seize babies and infants from the villages and carry them back to the mountains. According to eyewitness testimony, the *orang bati* is humanoid in form, with red skin, black wings, and a long thin tail. Perhaps these claims are based upon the existence here of a scientifically undiscovered species of giant bat, akin to the Javanese *ahool* (Shuker, 1995b).

Form of loris closely resembling slow loris *Nycticebus coucang*, but instantly distinguished from all known lorises by possessing a long bushy tail; indigenous to India's Lushai Hills. Specimens were captured alive, photographed, and exhibited for a time in captivity during 1889 (Annandale, 1908). On the assumption that this tailed loris represents a genuine species (rather than a teratological aberration), and based upon a concise published description and photograph (Annandale, 1908), it has been named *Nycticebus caudatus* sp. nov.

(Shuker, 1993b), but has not been reported in recent years, so may now be extinct.

Mysterious unidentified loris superficially resembling the slow loris but much larger and far paler in color, exhibited and photographed in a bird cage on an animal dealer's stall at the new animal market in Hanoi, Vietnam, in December 1994 (Richardson, 1995; Shuker, 1997d).

Nepalese cryptid with striped tiger-like body and canine head, known as the *chuti*, and often depicted in traditional art. Nepalese lamas informed mountaineer Hamish MacInnes that *chutis* inhabited the Choyang and Iswa Valleys. Russian scientist Dr. Vladimir Tschernesky has suggested that this cryptid may be the striped hyaena *Hyaena hyaena* (MacInnes, 1979).

Apparently unknown civet inhabiting Seram, Indonesia. While working here in 1986, Tyson Hughes collected the remains of a mammalian tail, about 18 inches long, which the native Moluccans claimed was from a large cat-like beast. It was later identified by WWF experts as the tail of a civet, but there is no known species of civet in Seram (Shuker, 1995b).

Sumatran mystery cat with unpatterned yellow or tan fur, a short tail, and a ruff encircling its neck, known locally as the *cigau*. According to native reports collected by British explorer Debbie Martyr, the *cigau* is slightly smaller but more heavily built than the Sumatran tiger, is greatly feared by the local people on account of its aggressiveness, and allegedly frequents the wilderness region east of Mount Kerinci and south toward the market town of Bangko (Shuker, 1995e; Heuvelmans, 1996).

Equally mystifying is the much smaller feline cryptid reputedly inhabiting the islands of Alor and Solor in the Lesser Sundas, south-

east of Sumatra and Java. Judging from reports collected by Debbie Martyr, this cat is only the size of a domestic cat, but is readily distinguished from all other felids by the pronounced knob-like protuberances, resembling short stubby horns, present upon its eyebrows (Shuker, 1995e, 1999).

Sheepdog-sized, tiger-like felid reported from the Ryukyu island of Iriomote, where it is called the *yamamaya*. It could be an undescribed subspecies of tiger, or even clouded leopard (Anon., 1968; Shuker, 1989).

Another tiger-like mystery felid from Asia is the *seah malang poo*, supposedly inhabiting Thailand's Khao Sok National Park. Living in this area's karst limestone mountains, it is said to be of stocky build with brown and black stripes. A skin from one such cat, shot in the 1930s, was allegedly sent to Thailand's national museum, but further details regarding this specimen have not been forthcoming to date (Belderson, 1995; Day, 1995; Shuker, 1995e).

Small wolf-like canids persistently reported in Nara Prefecture and elsewhere in Japan, and photographed on October 14, 1996, at close range in the mountain district of Chichibu. They greatly resemble the shamanu or Japanese dwarf wolf *Canis lupus hodophilax*, whose last confirmed specimen was killed in Nara Prefecture during January 1905. Reports have been sufficiently convincing for the staging on March 19-20, 1994, of a two-day symposium devoted to the shamanu and its putative post-1905 survival. It is certainly likely that some reports are based upon misidentified feral dogs, and possibly even the descendants of original pre-1905 matings between shamanus and dogs, but certain reports on file do readily recall the shamanu's distinctive, diminutive morphology (Anon., 1997a; Shuker, 1997c, 1998d).

"Horned" jackals in Sri Lanka—occasional male specimens of the

common jackal *Canis aureus* possessing a very small horny projection, usually at the rear of the skull. Horn development is no doubt controlled genetically, or induced epigenetically by physical injury (Tennent, 1861; Shuker, 1997d).

Supposed presence of tapirs in Borneo, including capture of an apparent juvenile specimen (dubbed a “tigelboat” by popular press) in Kalimantan (Indonesian Borneo) during 1975. Although probably conspecific with the Malayan tapir *Tapirus indicus*, which inhabited this island during the Pleistocene, they may comprise a distinct subspecies, awaiting formal description (Shuker, 1995f).

Porcine beast known by the Saiap Dusuns of North Borneo (Sabah) as the *pukau*, said to occur in large numbers on Mount Madalong, and to resemble a hybrid of pig and deer. This description is reminiscent of Sulawesi’s babirusa *Babyrusa babyrussa*—which could conceivably have entered Borneo in pre-Holocene times across transitory land bridges existing during that period between Borneo and the faunal region of Wallacea, which includes Sulawesi (Rutter, 1929; Shuker, 1995f).

In 1994, Vietnamese biologist Nguyen Ngoc Chinh visited Pu Mat, an area just north of Vu Quang (scene of the discovery in 1992 of the Vu Quang ox *Pseudoryx nghetinhensis* and the giant muntjac *Megamuntiacus vuquangensis* in 1994) in northern Vietnam. While there, local hunters gave him the skull of a mysterious deer known to them as the *quang khem* or slow-running deer, but seemingly undescribed by science. Unlike those of other deer, the antlers of this strange animal are not branched, but simply comprise a pair of short pointed spikes, so that its skull resembles the horned helmet of a Viking warrior. Some additional *quang khem* skulls, previously neglected, have been uncovered by *Pseudoryx* and *Megamuntiacus* discoverer Dr. John MacKinnon, a British conservationist, in a box of unsorted bones at Hanoi’s Institute of Ecology and Biological

Resources. DNA samples taken from these were analyzed by Copenhagen University geneticist Dr. Peter Arctander, who was unable to match them with the DNA of any known species. To date, however, no complete specimen of the *quang khem* has been spied by scientists or made available for scientific study (Linden, 1994; Shuker, 1995a, 1997d, 2002b).

Also discovered by MacKinnon in that same box of unsorted bones was a pair of antlers belonging to another species of deer seemingly unknown to science but familiar to the local Vietnamese hunters. They call this one the black deer or *mangden* (Shuker, 1995a, 1997d).

Possible survival of Schomburgk's deer *Cervus schomburgki* in Laos. Previously restricted largely to central Thailand's Chao Phraya Basin, and believed to be entirely extinct since the 1930s, this handsome species was famous for the male's extremely ornate, extensively branched antlers. In February 1991, a pair of antlers belonging to this species was spotted in a medicine shop in Laos by Laurent Chazée, a United Nations agronomist. When questioned regarding their provenance, the shop owner claimed that they were from a deer shot in a nearby district in 1990 (Schroering, 1995). With several remarkable new ungulates having already been discovered in Laos and neighboring Vietnam during the 1990s, it would be rash to deny the possibility that Schomburgk's deer also exists here, unseen by scientists.

Referred to as the holy goat or *linh duong* in Vietnam and as the *kting voar* in Cambodia, *Pseudonovibos spiralis* was formally described and named in 1994, but this enigmatic ungulate is still known to science only from its distinctive spiraled horns. Local hunters claim that it is grey-brown and resembles a cow, but no scientist has yet seen even a skin or skeleton of one, and some have denounced it as a hoax (Shuker, 1995d, 1997d, 2002b).

Possible persistence of the Indian pink-headed duck *Rhodonessa caryophyllacea*, believed extinct since the 1940s. Most eyewitness claims have emerged from regions currently difficult to explore due to political unrest (Shuker, 1991b). The possibility that this species survives in Tibet, which is outside its known distribution range, was investigated (uneventfully) by a British expedition during 1998 (Anon., 1998).

Large, possibly flightless species of argus pheasant, christened *Argus* [now *Argusianus*] *bipunctatus* in 1871, on the basis of a single feather that bore two bands of dots instead of just one (as in the great argus *A. argus*, the only *Argusianus* species currently recognized). Its provenance is unknown, but suggestions include Java and the Malaysian island of Tioman; it is probably now extinct (Davison, 1983; Shuker, 1990a, 1991a, 1999).

Chicken-shaped, chicken-sized gallinaceous bird known as the *alovot*, reported from Sumatra. It is said to have a comb-like crest in some instances (perhaps present only in one sex?), and dark brown plumage dappled with lighter spots. Too small to be the great argus, it could conceivably be an undescribed species of *Polyplectron* peacock-pheasant (Jacobson, 1937; Shuker, 1990a, 1991a, 1993b; Heuvelmans, 1996).

Long-tailed, pigeon-sized bird known as the *ulama* (Singhalese), *andai* (Tamil), and devil-bird (English), inhabiting forests of Sri Lanka. Rarely spied but often heard, its name derives from its hideous cry, described by one eyewitness as resembling the sound that would be made by a boy being slowly strangled. Several identities have been postulated, including one or more species of the island's known owls, raptors, rails, and nightjars (Tennent, 1861; Shuker, 1991b, 1997d).

An unidentified owl species belonging to the genus *Strix* has been

reported on more than one occasion from the Andaman and Nicobar islands (Ali & Ripley, 1969).

Minute (one and a half inches long) bird resembling the New World hummingbirds but reported in Sumatra. Two specimens were seen flying together in c.1957-1958 at a distance of only 12 inches away from the face of one local eyewitness and his wife. They were yellowish in color, with dark brown bellies and little stripes (Coleman, 1989). The hummingbirds are exclusively New World in distribution, but there are Old World passerines that are superficially similar, known as sunbirds (nectariniids). None currently known to science, however, is as small as the birds described here. Although unlikely, perhaps the eyewitnesses mistook a species of nectar-seeking day-flying moth for a bird—as often happens in Britain, for instance, when the tiny summer-visiting hummingbird hawk moth arrives from the European continent.

(5) In Tropical and Southern Africa (Ethiopian Region):

Small, unidentified microchiropteran bat from Kenya, distinguished by its unique daytime hiding place—piles of dry elephant dung. It may prove to be the little-known species *Rhinopterus flow-eri*, or an undiscovered relative (Williams, 1967; Shuker, 1994).

Sanguinivorous (blood-drinking) microchiropteran bat allegedly inhabiting Devil's Cave in Walaga Province, southern Ethiopia, and termed the death bird by local peasants. As the only sanguinivorous chiropterans are exclusively Neotropical (the vampire bats), if reports are genuine it is likely to constitute either a totally new species, or a known species that has unexpectedly acquired a sanguinivorous lifestyle in this particular geographical location (Prorok, 1943; Shuker, 1994, 1997d).

Cat-sized bushbaby-like primate observed and photographed in Cameroon by an assistant of bushbaby taxonomist Dr. Simon K.

Bearder in 1994. It is most likely an extremely large new species of bushbaby, but also worth considering is the exciting possibility that it constitutes the first living species of true lemur recorded from mainland Africa (Bearder, 1997).

Unidentified tiny lemur reported from the Tsingy de Bemaraha nature reserve in western Madagascar. Known to the Sakalava du Menabe tribe living here as the *malagnira*, and claimed by them to be similar to but even smaller than the *Microcebus* mouse lemurs (the world's smallest known lemurs), and with different behavior (Rakotoarison, et al., 1993). Some notably bigger new species of lemur have been discovered and rediscovered in Madagascar during the past two decades (Shuker, 2002b), so the putative reality of a much smaller species still eluding scientific detection cannot be discounted.

Possible 20th century survival of the officially long-extinct giant aye-aye *Daubentonia robusta*, as indicated by the discovery in c.1930 of an exceptionally large aye-aye skin at a native's home near the village of Andranomavo in Madagascar's Soalala District by a government official called Hourcq (Hill, 1953).

Oliver—a controversial male chimpanzee, attracting public attention in 1970s due to his distinctive appearance and ability (seemingly unforced) to walk bipedally erect; now living at Primarily Primates, an animal sanctuary in Texas. Variously identified as an unexceptional but well-trained West African chimp, a mutant chimp, a hybrid of common and pygmy chimp, a new chimp (sub)species, a new species of non-chimp primate, and even a hybrid of chimp and human, or of pygmy chimp and a West African bipedal crypto-primate called the *séhité*. The last two identities were proposed in response to an unsubstantiated claim that Oliver has 47 chromosomes (one more than humans, one less than chimpanzees); in reality, he has 48. Moreover, chromosomal studies and

mtDNA sequence analyses conducted by a team of American geneticists including Drs. Charleen Moore and John Ely have revealed that Oliver has a normal chimp karyotype and that he closely resembles a Gabon chimp of the subspecies *Pan troglodytes troglodytes* genetically (Anon., 1976, 1997b, 1997c; Ely, et al., 1998; Ely & Moore, 1998).

Highly aggressive, southern Cameroon primate known to Baka pygmies and Bantus as the *dodu*. According to explorer Bill Gibbons, they claim that it is dark grey, stands up to six feet tall, is mostly bipedal but sometimes knuckle-walks on all fours, and, very distinctively, has only three fingers on each hand and just three clawed toes on each foot. It will attack gorillas, and leaves piles of sticks on the forest floor, possibly a form of territorial marking behavior (Shuker, 2003).

Large African leopard-like felids but with black upperparts and paler underparts, reported widely through tropical Africa but particularly in Uganda (*ndalarwo*) and the Aberdares of Kenya (*damasia*). Judging from their morphology, they seem likely to be pseudo-melanistic leopards (like the "melanotic" specimens recorded from Grahamstown, South Africa, during the late 1800s), as opposed to melanistic leopards (i.e. black panthers) (Shuker, 1989).

Large African felids with dark blotches or stripes, reported from Ethiopia (*wobo*) and Sudan (*abu sotan*). The *wobo* skin formerly held at the cathedral of Eifag may have been an imported tiger skin (Shuker, 1989).

Mysterious giant carnivorous bird, capable of flight yet allegedly even taller than the ostrich, claimed during the 1870s by the Wasequas to inhabit their country, situated on the African mainland eight to nine days' journey away from the coast of Zanzibar. Said to feed primarily upon carrion, it is called the *makalala* ("noisy"), on

account of the loud noise produced when it claps its wings together, which possess horny plates at their tips. It also has long legs, and the head and beak of a bird of prey. Allowing for exaggeration in relation to its height, this description irresistibly calls to mind an extra-large version of the secretary bird *Sagittarius serpentarius*, which even possesses horny tips to its wings. Accordingly, and based upon a published description of the *makalala* (Marschall, 1878-1879), it has been named *Megasagittarius clamosus* gen. nov., sp. nov. ("noisy giant secretary bird") (Shuker, 1995f). No modern-day records of the *makalala* are known, so even if it did exist and was a giant species of secretary bird, it is assuredly extinct today. However, its skulls were said to be highly prized as ceremonial helmets, worn only by chiefs. Perhaps, therefore, it is not too late to seek out one of these skulls, and thereby solve the mystery of this avian cryptid's identity (Marschall, 1878-1879; Shuker, 1995f, 1996d).

Glossy-black fowl-like bird with red bill and claws, no differences between sexes, and voiceless; flies low, like a guineafowl, is called the *kondlo*, and is native to Zululand, South Africa. Although it is believed by some to be either the southern ground hornbill *Bucorvus leadbeateri* or the bald ibis *Geronticus calvus*, experienced Western hunters familiar with those latter birds and with the *kondlo* disagree with these claims. It is possibly an undescribed galliform bird (Court, 1962; Shuker, 1991a, 1996d, 1999).

Unidentified form of stone partridge *Ptilopachus petrosus* native to Senegal. Distinguished ecologically from the known, nominate subspecies here by inhabiting forests and dense undergrowth rather than this species' typical rocky terrain or scrub. Distinguished morphologically by its spotted head, paler breast, and smaller size (Shuker, 1991a).

Undescribed species of gallinule inhabiting the Sudd. Said to be nocturnal (Kingdon, 1990).

Unidentified green touraco with a very little red upon its wings, never collected but spied by at least three eminent ornithologists, including John G. Williams, within the Impenetrable Forest in southwestern Kigezi, Uganda (Williams & Arlott, 1980). African wildlife expert Dr. Jonathan Kingdon deems it likely that this bird is based upon fleeting glimpses of the scarce southern race of Ruwenzori touraco *Tauraco johnstoni*, which sometimes flies in a fast short flight, exposing little of its red wings (Kingdon, 1990).

Very large, unidentified all-black swift, observed on Marsabit Mountain in Kenya's North Frontier Province (Williams & Arlott, 1980).

Greyish, long-tailed mystery bird with red or chestnut under tail-coverts, spied in Kenya's Matthews Range (Williams & Arlott, 1980). Kingdon (1990) suggests that this may be the chestnut-winged starling *Onychognathus morio*, noting that if the bird is not flying it is easy to confuse a glimpse of the primaries below the tail with the under tail-coverts.

Bizarre-sounding reptile called the *das-adder*, reported from South Africa's Drakensberg Mountains, and said to have a viperine body but a hyrax-like head. Stripping away the layers of folklore undoubtedly encapsulating this beast, it is likely that its true identity will prove to be one of the region's larger monitor lizards (Speight, 1940; Shuker, 1997d).

Equally bizarre mystery snake reported from southern Namibia's Namib Desert by the Namaqua people and also by various Western eyewitnesses. It reputedly possesses a huge head, inflated neck, a yellow or brown body speckled with dark spots, and a pair of bat-like wings emerging from the sides of its mouth or neck, plus a pair of short backward-curving horns on its head and—most amazing of all—a bright glowing light in the centre of its brow (Whitty, 1995;

Muirhead, 1995). According to eyewitnesses, it can launch itself from the summit of a high rocky ledge, and soar down to the ground, landing with a considerable impact, and leaving behind scaly tracks in the dusty earth (one such track was examined by coelacanth discoverer Marjorie Courtenay-Latimer, who confirmed that it resembled a snake's track). Assuming that this is an exaggerated account of a genuine snake (perhaps influenced by Germanic lightning snake legends and folklore reaching Namibia via the arrival here of German settlers), it may in reality be an undescribed species possessing a pair of extendable lateral membranes comparable with those of the famous Asian gliding lizard *Draco volans*, and a highly reflective patch of shining scales on its brow (Shuker, 1996b, 1999).

Undiscovered species of hawk moth possessing a proboscis at least 15 inches long, and inhabiting Madagascar. The existence of such an insect was predicted in 1992 by Ohio entomologist Dr. Gene Kritsky as the only explanation for the successful pollination of a certain species of Madagascan orchid, *Angraecum longicalcar*, whose nectar-producing organs (nectaries) are 15 inches deep inside the plant, and hence can only be reached by a moth with a suitably lengthy proboscis (Angier, 1992). A notable precedent for this case was the formal description in 1903 of *Xanthopan morgani praedicta*, a Madagascan hawk moth with a 12-inch-long proboscis. Its existence had been correctly predicted back in 1862 by Charles Darwin, who recognized that such a moth must certainly exist in order to explain the successful pollination of the orchid *Angraecum sesquipedale*—whose nectaries are roughly 12 inches deep, and hence beyond the reach of any Madagascan moth known to science at that time (Shuker, 1993b).

(6) In North America (Nearctic Region):

Regular sightings of puma-like cats in the eastern United States, where the eastern cougar *Felis concolor couguar* officially became

extinct several decades ago. Some such sightings, even if genuinely featuring pumas, could involve specimens of other subspecies that have escaped or have been released from captivity. Some may even feature western subspecies that have migrated into the east, occupying the ecological niche left vacant by the disappearance of *F. c. cougar*. Bearing in mind, however, that the puma is highly skilled in concealment, it would not be impossible for a small contingent of bona fide eastern cougars to have persisted within their native distribution range (Shuker, 1989; Tischendorf & Ropski, 1996).

Occasional reports of extremely large spotted mystery cats in southern U.S., probably involving absconded leopards and jaguars from captivity, but may also indicate survival of the Arizona jaguar *Panthera onca arizonensis*, officially extinct since 1905 (Shuker, 1989).

Very large, all-white wolf-like beast with unusually wide paws and head, small ears, rather short legs, and solitary habits, reported from northern Alaska and Canada's Northwest Territories, and known to the native Indians as the *waheela*. It has been suggested that it could comprise a surviving member of the amphicyonids or bear-dogs—a family of burly, plantigrade, bear-like carnivores with lupine dentition and face, currently assumed to have died out in North America around two million years ago, and elsewhere by the end of the Pleistocene epoch, 10,000 years ago (Sanderson, 1974; Shuker, 1995f).

Anomalous cat-sized mammal said to resemble a goat, with rose-colored horns and snow-white silky fur, but clawed feet. One was reputedly owned by an Indian woman, and was seen at Fredericksburg, Texas, around the mid-1800s by an American officer who described it to the Abbé Emanuel Domenech (Domenech, 1858; Shuker, 1997d).

Not all reports of living thunderbirds or "big birds" in North

America fit the feathered, vulturine type popularly assigned a teratorn identity by cryptozoologists. Some, reported from Texas and Pennsylvania, seem to be featherless and much closer in appearance to giant fossil pterosaurs, notably the North American *Pteranodon* and *Quetzalcoatlus*. The prospect of pterosaurs persisting beyond the Cretaceous into the present day in this continent must surely seem highly unlikely. Even so, it is a formidable coincidence that regions in which the fossils of such creatures have been unearthed had in some cases already hosted sightings of cryptids bearing a close resemblance to the likely appearance in life of these same fossil species (even allowing for the transforming effects of more than 65 million years of continuing evolution) (Clark & Coleman, 1978; Shuker, 1995f).

(7) In Central and South America (Neotropical Region):

Likelihood that at least one species of the West Indies' large, supposedly long-extinct family of nesophontid insectivores still survived as lately as the 1920s (and perhaps persisting even today); based upon discovery of seemingly fresh skeletal remains extracted from recent owl pellets on Hispaniola (Miller, 1930; MacFadden, 1980; Shuker, 1993b).

Unusually large vampire bats allegedly attacking cattle and horses, reported by locals from southeastern Brazil's Ribeira Valley—which is also a source of Pleistocene remains from an unusually large, officially extinct species of vampire bat, *Desmodus draculae*. Coincidence, or evidence for Recent survival of *D. draculae*? (Trajano & Vivo, 1991; Shuker, 1995f).

Chimpanzee-sized arboreal monkey with a baboon-like face and a very short tail, called the *isnachi* and other local names by Indians sharing its mountainous cloud-forest home in Peru. Said to be rare, but extremely fierce, and is avoided by Indians whenever possible. One of its most characteristic activities is to rip apart the tops of

chonta palm trees to obtain the tender vegetable matter inside—and as no other animal is strong enough to do this, its presence in a given locality can be confirmed by finding trees damaged in this way (Hocking, 1992).

Short-tailed Mexican mystery cat termed the ruffed cat, known from three reported skins, brown with wavy stripes on the flanks and upper limbs, one skin measuring just over seven and a half feet in total length, and all three skins characterized by a very conspicuous ruff of fur encircling the neck and covering the ears from above and behind. Two of these skins were supposedly purchased by Ivan T. Sanderson in 1940 from locals inhabiting a mountain settlement in the Mexican state of Nayarit's Sierra mountains, but both were subsequently destroyed when the government jail in Belize, where Sanderson had stored them, was flooded out. Sanderson claimed that he later saw a third such skin for sale at a market in Colima, at the south end of Nayarit's mountain block, but at a price above what he could afford to pay (Sanderson, 1973; Shuker, 1989).

Alleged new jaguar species spied but not caught by Dutch zoologist Dr. Marc van Roosmalen while spending over a year seeking new monkeys in Brazil during 1996 and 1997 (Anon., 1997d; Shuker, 2002b).

Jaguar-sized cat with tan fur and tigerine stripes, from Peru's Ucayali and Pasco provinces. It may be conspecific with striped mystery cats reported from Colombia and Ecuador. In 1993 Peruvian zoologist Dr. Peter Hocking obtained the skull of a female specimen, which will be studied by felid specialist Dr. Steven C. Conkling (Hocking, 1992, 1996; Shuker, 1996a).

Jaguar-sized cat, but with larger head, and grey fur covered by solid black speckles instead of the normal jaguar's golden fur patterned with black ring-like rosettes. Dubbed the "speckled tiger" by

Hocking, it is known to the Amuesha native hunters, and inhabits the lower Palcazu River valley in Peru's Pasco province (Hocking, 1992; Shuker, 1996a). In 1993, Hocking obtained the skull from a strange cat whose body size and fur patterning seem similar to the speckled tiger's, but its background color was said to be cinnamon-brown and white (instead of grey); its skull shows some differences from ordinary jaguar skulls. Hocking terms it an "anomalous jaguar" (Hocking, 1996). Another mystery cat reminiscent of the speckled tiger has been reported from Guyana and Brazil, and is called the *cunarid din* by the Wapishana Indians, who consider it to be an abnormal type of jaguar (Brock, 1963).

Mystery Peruvian cat resembling a giant black panther, entirely black and at least twice the size of the jaguar. Known to the Quechua Indians as the *yana puma* ("black puma"), it is said to be very aggressive at night, tracking hunters to their camps to kill them while they sleep (Hocking, 1992). Known melanistic pumas are extremely rare and are not uniformly black; their underparts are slaty grey. It could be an unusually large variety of melanistic jaguar, one whose cryptic coat markings are wholly concealed by its fur's black background color.

Unidentified lion-sized "jungle lion" with long hair around its neck and reddish-brown fur, reported by rangers in the Yanachaga National Park, Pasco, Peru (Hocking, 1996).

Pygmy brown bear sighted by rangers in Peru's Yanachaga National Park, and distinguished by them from the spectacled bear *Tremarctos ornatus* also existing here (Hocking, 1996).

Dog-like cat, or cat-like dog, called the *mitla*, reported from Bolivia by Lieut.-Col. Percy Fawcett and sought during 1960s by Jersey Zoo's director, Jeremy Mallinson. It may be the bushdog *Speothos venaticus*, or the small-eared dog *Atelocynus microtis*—a notably

feline canid of uncertain distribution range (Fawcett, 1953; Mackal, 1980; Shuker, 1989, 1996a).

Alleged new tapir species seen but not captured by Dutch zoologist Dr. Marc van Roosmalen while spending over a year seeking new monkeys in Brazil during 1996 and 1997 (Anon., 1997d; Shuker, 2002b).

Apparently undescribed flamingo called the *jetete* in the Chilean Andes; distinguished by local inhabitants from this region's three known species (Walters, 1980; Shuker, 1993b).

Unidentified black, wattle-lacking guan in Peru's Yanachaga National Park (Hocking, 1996).

Small, mystifying sea-green macaws reported (even photographed) in various bird collections. Assumed to be freak Lear's or hyacinth macaws, but suspected by some to be specimens of the glaucous macaw *Anodorhynchus glaucus*, deemed extinct since 1930s (Shuker, 1993b).

Medium-sized snakes adorned with cockscombs and wattles, and gifted with the ability to crow like a cockerel—thereby paralleling similar mystery snakes in Africa—reported from Hispaniola and Jamaica in the West Indies (Gosse, 1862; Shuker, 1991b).

Extremely large form of batrachian, known as the *sapo de loma* ("toad of the hill"), reported from a number of Andean valleys in Chile and Peru. It is alleged to be very poisonous, and able to capture decent-sized birds (Shuker, 1997d).

(8) In Australasia (Australasian Region):

Out-of-place Tasmanian devils *Sarcophilus harrisii* reported and even occasionally captured on mainland Australia, including Victoria and

Western Australia, during the 20th century. These have most probably absconded from captivity (though none of the captured specimens has ever been traced back to such a source). Even so, as this or a closely related species still occurred as recently as 600 years ago in Victoria and a mere 400 years ago in southwestern Australia, there is also a remote chance that *Sarcophilus* survives on the Australian mainland even today, undetected by science (Troughton, 1965; Nowak, 1991; Shuker, 1998e).

Elusive dog-like cryptid with distinctly canine head, and stripes on its back and tail, greatly resembling thylacine *Thylacinus cynocephalus*. Recorded regularly from Tasmania, where the last confirmed thylacine specimen died in 1936; from mainland Australia, where the thylacine supposedly became extinct around 2,500 years ago; and from mountainous regions of Irian Jaya (western, Indonesian New Guinea), where natives refer to it as the *dobsegna* (the thylacine is known from New Guinea via Pleistocene fossils). The sheer quantity, and also the quality of so many, of the sightings on record is such that after disregarding dingos, foxes, domestic dogs, and other sources of misidentification, it is still reasonable to suppose that thylacine survival beyond its respective accepted extinction dates in all three regions has occurred. Its continuing survival in the more remote, inaccessible areas of Irian Jaya must be the likeliest prospect, but its persistence in the other two regions should not be ruled out (Shuker, 1993b; Healy & Cropper, 1994; Shuker, 1995f; Smith, 1996).

Australian feline cryptid, as large as a clouded leopard, very fierce, arboreal, with cat-like head, very prominent tusk-like teeth at the front of its mouth, and distinctive black (or dark grey) and white bands around its body. Mostly reported from forested regions of northern Queensland, it is known to the aboriginals as the *yarri*, to Westerners as the Queensland tiger, and can be readily delineated from reports of dog-headed thylacine-like beasts. Judging from eye-

witness descriptions, it bears a striking resemblance to the predicted appearance in life (based upon reconstructions drawn from fossil evidence) of the marsupial lion *Thylacoleo carnifex*, which supposedly became extinct several millennia ago. Hence it has been suggested that the *yarri* is a surviving descendant (Heuvelmans, 1958; Shuker, 1989, 1995f).

Nocturnal Australian cryptid, superficially ape-like but allegedly distinct from Australia's famous man-beast, the *yowie*. Principally quadrupedal but can stand erect upon its hind legs and thus attain a height of five to six feet; it is equipped with very long muscular arms and elongated toes but lacks a tail. It is covered in dark fur upon much of its torso but lighter on its neck, limbs, and belly, and is known locally in New South Wales as the *yahoo*. Identities proposed include a surviving species of giant wombat, or a modern Australian representative of New Guinea's mountain diprotodont *Hulitherium thomasettii*, a marsupial with unexpectedly ape-like characteristics, believed extinct since the Pleistocene (Greenwell, 1994a; Shuker, 1995f).

Undescribed speckled megapode called the *sasa*, formerly native to the Fijian islands of Viti Levu and Kandavu, but probably now extinct (Wood, 1926; Shuker, 1991a).

Possible persistence of the huia *Heteralocha acutirostris* in the Kaimanawa mountain range of New Zealand's North Island. Presumed extinct since 1907, convincing sightings have continued to emerge of this very distinctive bird, famous for exhibiting marked sexual dimorphism in beak shape—short and pointed in the male, long and curved in the female (Phillipps, 1963; Shuker, 1991b; Greenwell, 1994b).

Six "lost" birds of paradise from New Guinea and outlying islands. Initially classed as valid species, they have been dismissed as

hybrids since the 1920s, but recent research suggests that they may truly constitute genuine (albeit exceedingly rare) species, none of which has been reported for many years. Some or all of them may now therefore be extinct. As originally named, the six are: Elliot's sicklebill *Epimachus ellioti*, Sharpe's lobe-billed riflebird *Loborhamphus ptilorhis*, Rothschild's lobe-billed bird of paradise *L. nobilis*, Duivenbode's riflebird *Paryphephorus duivenbodei*, Bensbach's bird of paradise *Janthothorax bensbachii*, and Ruys's bird of paradise *Neoparadisea ruysi* (Fuller, 1979, 1995).

Black-plumaged, long-tailed mystery bird whose call sounds like a short explosive rattle, reported (but never collected) during the 20th century by various scientific teams visiting Goodenough Island—largest of the three main islands comprising the D'Entrecasteaux Archipelago just north of New Guinea's eastern tip. Suggested identities include a species of *astrapia* (long-tailed bird of paradise), a relative of the paradise crow *Lycocorax pyrrhopterus*, or a honeyeater (meliphagid) (Beehler, 1991; Shuker, 1999).

Unidentified winged beast with three-to-four-foot wingspan, long toothy beak, and lengthy tail terminating in a diamond-shaped flange, reported from island of Rambutyo (=Rambunzo) off the east coast of Papua New Guinea (PNG), and also from the isle of Umboi, between eastern PNG and New Britain. It is known locally as the *ropen*, and its morphology readily calls to mind that of *Rhamphorhynchus*, a small early prehistoric pterosaur (Shuker, 2002a).

A much larger winged mystery beast, often confused with the *ropen* by previous writers, reputedly inhabits mainland PNG, sporting huge leathery wings spanning up to 20 feet, a fairly long neck, and a bony crest. Known as the *dualh*, it is seemingly reminiscent of *Pteranodon*, the mighty pterosaur of Mesozoic North America. Missionaries in the 1990s claim to have spied such creatures, and

allege that they have glowing underparts (Shuker, 2002a).

Delcourt's giant gecko *Hoplodactylus delcourti* is currently known from a single stuffed specimen that had resided in Marseilles Natural History Museum for over a century before its species was recognized during the early 1980s to be unknown to science, and was formally described in 1986. The specimen's provenance is unknown, but was probably New Zealand, as its species' closest relatives are mostly endemic to New Zealand. Also, Maori mythology refers to a two-foot-long forest-dwelling lizard called the *kaweau* or *karwekaweau*, as thick as a man's wrist, and brown in color with red longitudinal stripes—a description very closely matching that of *H. delcourti*. In recent years, reports of lizards resembling this species have emerged from North Island, offering hope that this seemingly lost species may exist here (Hellaby, 1984; Bauer & Russell, 1987; Shuker, 1993b; Heuvelmans, 1996).

Unidentified aquatic mystery snake, reputedly very venomous, reported from PNG. No more than six feet long, with smooth scales, enlarged ventrals, and a short tail, one of these snakes bit three children near the village of Wipim, in Papua's Western Province, during 1972 and 1973; all three quickly died. It is said to favor small freshwater swamps and inland streams rather than rivers or open swampy grassland. English herpetologist Mark O'Shea has searched in vain for this snake during several visits to New Guinea, and cannot reconcile its description with that of any species known by science to exist here (O'Shea, 1996).

ADDENDUM: CHECKLIST AMENDMENTS AND ALTERNATIVE IDENTITIES FOR CERTAIN CRYPTIDS IN LIST

Heuvelmans's longstanding classification of sea serpents into nine well-defined types (Heuvelmans, 1968, 1986) has been challenged in a recent extensive critique (Magin, 1996). Its author concludes that none of Heuvelmans's postulated sea serpents will be discovered, because they do not exist. Instead, he proposes that they are merely cultural stereotypes: "the different types of creatures are based on patterns of speech, traditional metaphors of the region, cultural patterning and expectation" (Magin, 1996). Some of Heuvelmans's sea serpent types have also faced specific challenges from suggested alternative identities.

As discussed elsewhere (Shuker, 1995f), based upon recent paleontological discoveries and theories the present author considers that a plesiosaur identity offers greater morphological and behavioral correspondence with long-necked sea serpents (and their freshwater counterparts) than does Heuvelmans's hypothetical long-necked seal *Megalotaria longicollis*.

Heuvelmans nominated an armored, scaly archaeocete as the identity of his many-finned sea serpent *Cetioscolopendra aeliani* (Heuvelmans, 1968). However, it is now known that scales found in association with certain specimens of fossil archaeocete did not originate from them (as originally assumed), but belonged instead to various other creatures. In other words, there are no verified specimens of armored archaeocetes in the fossil record, thereby greatly reducing the likelihood of any modern-day species existing (Shuker, 1995f).

One of the most significant reports supporting the reality of Heuvelmans's Scandinavian super-otter *Hyperhydra egedei*

(Heuvelmans, 1968) originated with a sighting off the coast of Greenland made on July 6, 1734, by a priest, Hans Egede (in honor of whom Heuvelmans named the super-otter) and his son Poul. However, Danish zoologist Lars Thomas recently published, for the first time in any cryptozoological document, the original description of this creature, as penned separately by Hans and Poul Egede (Thomas, 1996), which reveals the creature to be very different morphologically from the super-otter envisaged by Heuvelmans. As a result, Thomas concludes: "It is so different, in fact, that I would suggest it is an entirely different animal to the super-otters Heuvelmans records as having been seen along the coast of Norway. Perhaps they should then be called the Norwegian super-otter (*Hyperhydra norvegica*); certainly not Egede's super-otter" (Thomas, 1996).

A giant undiscovered species of swamp-dwelling lungfish inhabiting the Apa Tani's remote upland valley in northern Assam, India, has been nominated as a more compatible alternative to a monitor lizard for the identity of the *buru* (Izzard, 1951; Shuker, 1991b).

In his original checklist, Heuvelmans claimed that the *minhocão* was presumably an amphibious burrowing mammal (Heuvelmans, 1986), and had previously specified a surviving glyptodont as a contender for this identity (Heuvelmans, 1958). However, as proposed by the present author, an extremely large species of caecilian would provide a much closer morphological and behavioral correspondence with this cryptid (Shuker, 1995f); Heuvelmans also favored a fossorial amphibian in his updated checklist (Heuvelmans, 1996).

Heuvelmans's list opined that the *migo* of Lake Dakataua in New Britain may be an unknown crocodile or even a surviving mosasaur (Heuvelmans, 1986). During a Japanese expedition to this lake in 1994, with Dr. Roy P. Mackal as scientific advisor, a *migo* was filmed,

leading Mackal to speculate that it may be a surviving, evolved archaeocete. Since participating in a second expedition here, however, during which time a clearer *migo* film was obtained, Mackal is convinced that the *migo* is not a cryptid at all—nor even a single animal. Instead, it is a composite, an optical illusion actually featuring three saltwater crocodiles *Crocodylus porosus* engaged in a mating ritual, involving two males and one female (Shuker, 1998b).

At least one type of British mystery cat is mysterious no longer—the Kellas cat of northern Scotland. This predominantly black, gracile, large-fanged felid, represented by several preserved specimens dating from the 1980s onwards, has lately been shown to be an introgressive hybrid of the Scottish wildcat and domestic cat—thus confirming the present author's predictions as to its likely taxonomic identity (Shuker, 1989, 1990b, 1993b).

In addition to the various identities offered by Heuvelmans as explanations for the Nandi bear in his checklist, the present author considers that two supposedly extinct mammals—the short-faced hyaena *Hyaena brevirostris* and a species of chalicothere—may also be involved (Shuker, 1995f). A chalicothere identity for this cryptid is supported by Brown University ungulate expert Prof. Christine Janis too (Janis 1987).

Heuvelmans's list offered a surviving deinotheres as a putative identity for the Congolese water elephant (Heuvelmans, 1986). As noted by the present author, however, the latter cryptid shares little similarity with deinotheres, but it does greatly resemble the predicted appearance of a large yet otherwise little-changed, modern-day descendant of early proboscideans, such as *Phiomia* and *Moeritherium* (Shuker, 1995f).

Janis has suggested that the mysterious southern Ethiopian "deer" listed by Heuvelmans is much more likely to be a surviving

Ethiopian subspecies of the fallow deer *Dama dama* than a persisting representative of the antlered, outwardly deer-like giraffe *Climacoceras* as proposed by Heuvelmans, who erroneously referred to *Climacoceras* as a deer (Heuvelmans, 1986; Janis, 1987).

Researchers conducting biochemical and genetic tests upon tissue samples obtained from the carcass of the Rodriguez onza—the only onza specimen made available for full scientific examination—have so far been unable to differentiate it from pumas. They have therefore opined that this supposed onza is indeed merely a puma (Dratch, et al., 1996). This identity had already been predicted for it by the present author, who considers that onzas may well prove to be a gracile mutant form of the puma, rather than comprising either a distinct puma subspecies or an entirely separate species (Shuker, 1998c, 2002b).

The Brazilian *mapinguary* was listed by Heuvelmans as an unknown primate. However, Goeldi Museum zoologist Dr. David Oren has been conducting field researches in the dense Mato Grosso region of Amazonia concerning this cryptid for several years, and considers that it is much more likely to be a surviving mylodontid ground sloth. He has revealed that this region's Indians claim the *mapinguary* has red fur, is as tall as a man when squatting on its hind legs, leaves strange footprints that seem to be back-to-front and horse-like fecal droppings, emits loud shouting cries, and is said to be invulnerable to bullets. Although mylodontids officially died out a few millennia ago, they are known to science not only from fossils and preserved fecal droppings (which are indeed horse-like), but also from some remarkable mummified specimens, still covered with reddish-brown fur. These have revealed that mylodontids had bony nodules in their skin that would have acted as an effective body armor — thus explaining the *mapinguary's* invulnerability? (Oren, 1993; Shuker, 1995f).

In his original checklist, Heuvelmans commented that the outsized “rabbits” reported from central Australia may be giant kangaroos belonging to the fossil genus *Palorchestes* (Heuvelmans, 1986). However, as pointed out by Janis, it is now known that *Palorchestes* was not a giant kangaroo, but a genus of diprotodont. Consequently, Janis considers that a much more likely identity for Australia’s giant “rabbits” is a surviving species of sthenurine kangaroo. Nevertheless, she does favor a modern-day species of *Palorchestes* (rather than *Diprotodon*, as suggested by Heuvelmans) as a plausible identity for the superficially tapir-like *gazeka* (more commonly termed the devil pig) of Papua New Guinea (Janis, 1987). These amendments were incorporated in Heuvelmans’s updated checklist (Heuvelmans, 1996).

TABLES SUMMARIZING THE TAXONOMY OF CRYPTIDS LISTED IN THIS SUPPLEMENT

In his checklist, Heuvelmans included three tables, which classified and numbered the marine, freshwater, and terrestrial cryptids listed by him. The total number of cryptids in each category was as follows. Marine: 21-24; freshwater: 19-28; and terrestrial: 70-85. The reason why the totals were not precise is because in some cases Heuvelmans offered more than one identity for a given cryptid, and some cryptids listed by him may be composites, i.e. comprising more than one species erroneously lumped together as one by eyewitnesses.

I have provided three corresponding tables classifying and totaling the marine, freshwater, and terrestrial cryptids listed in this supplement. The totals given in these tables are precise. This is because I have only taken into account the most likely identity for each cryptid (incidentally, alternative identities noted in the addendum have not been included in the tables, as these refer to cryptids in Heuvelmans’s list, not to those in this supplement), and also because there do not appear to be any “composite identity” examples present among the cryptids listed here.

As for the tables’ taxonomic content: I have categorized cryp-

tids down to the level of order within the phylum Chordata, and down to the level of class within all other (i.e. invertebrate) phyla, as I feel that to attempt anything more precise than this here would unavoidably introduce an unwieldy and unnecessary extent of taxonomic nomenclature in what is primarily a documentation of cryptids, not an exercise in defining or elucidating zoological taxonomy. For this same reason, I have chosen to ignore the wrath of taxonomy purists by adhering to familiar, traditional systems of classification—rather than complicating matters needlessly by introducing new (and often still controversial) versions that have yet to gain widespread recognition beyond their immediate circle of proponents and which would thus require extensive explanation in order to be readily comprehended here (a case in point is the radically revised classification system for birds inspired by molecular evidence).

TABLE 1:

**Breakdown of Marine Cryptids in Supplement
Part 1: Phylum Chordata, divided into classes (C), orders (O),
and suborders (So):**

<i>Incertae sedis</i> : Class Mammalia?	1
C. Mammalia <i>Incertae sedis</i> : O. Pinnipedia? / O. Sirenia?	1
O. Cetacea:	1
So. Mysticeti	1
So. Odontoceti	4
C. Osteichthyes <i>Incertae sedis</i> :	2
O. Stomiiformes	1
O. Gadiformes	1
O. Lophiiformes	1
O. Perciformes	1
O. Coelacanthiformes	1
C. Chondrichthyes O. Orectolobiformes	1
O. Isuriformes	1
O. Batiformes	1

Part 2: Invertebrate phyla (P), divided into classes (C):

P. Hemichordata		2
P. Chelicerata	C. Arachnida	1
P. Mollusca	C. Cephalopoda	1
P. Annelida	C. Polychaeta	1
P. Cnidaria	C. Scyphozoa	2
TOTAL		24

TABLE 2: Breakdown of Freshwater Cryptids in Supplement

Phylum Chordata, divided into classes (C) and orders (O):

C. Mammalia	<i>Incertae sedis</i> : O. Carnivora?/O. Sirenia?	1
	O. Carnivora	2
	O. Cetacea	1
C. Reptilia	O. Chelonia	1
C. Amphibia	O. Urodela	1
C. Osteichthyes	<i>Incertae sedis</i>	2
	O. Salmoniformes	1
	O. Dipnoi	1
<i>Incertae sedis</i> : C. Osteichthyes?/C. Chondrichthyes?		1
TOTAL		11

TABLE 3:
Breakdown of Terrestrial Cryptids in Supplement

Part A: Phylum Chordata, divided into classes (C), orders (O), and suborders (So):

<i>Incertae sedis</i> : Phylum Chordata?/Phylum Annelida?	1
C. Mammalia <i>Incertae sedis</i> : O. Carnivora?/O. Artiodactyla?	1
O. Marsupialia	4
O. Insectivora	1
O. Pholidota	1
O. Chiroptera	4
O. Primates	8
O. Carnivora	24
O. Perissodactyla	2
O. Artiodactyla	5
C. Aves <i>Incertae sedis</i> : O. Pelecaniformes?/O. Charadriiformes?;	
O. Ciconiiformes?/O. Galliformes?/O. Coraciiformes?;	
O. Falconiformes?/O. Gruiformes?/O. Strigiformes?/	
O. Caprimulgiformes?;	
O. Apodiformes?/O. Passeriformes?	4
O. Phoenicopteriformes	1
O. Anseriformes	1
O. Falconiformes	1
O. Galliformes	5
O. Gruiformes	1
O. Psittaciformes	1
O. Musophagiformes	1
O. Strigiformes	1
O. Apodiformes	1
O. Passeriformes	9
C. Reptilia <i>Incertae sedis</i> : O. Squamata?/O. Sphenodontia?	1
O. Squamata: <i>Incertae sedis</i> : So. Sauria?/So. Serpentes?	1
So. Sauria	2
So. Serpentes	3
O. Pterosauria	3
C. Amphibia	
O. Salientia (Anura)	1

Part 2: Invertebrate Phyla (P), divided into classes (C):

P. Uniramia	C. Insecta	1
	TOTAL	89

Number of cryptids in supplement: 24 marine + 11 freshwater + 89 terrestrial = 124 total.

A LAST WORD

As demonstrated by this supplement, diligent bibliographical and field research can and will surely continue to yield reports of hitherto-unpublicized cryptids worthy of addition to Heuvelmans's original checklist—and, in turn, necessitate the preparation of further supplements. This research, therefore, should certainly be encouraged.

Having said that, however, I hope that publications such as the account presented here will ultimately lead not to an ever-increasing, but rather to an ever-decreasing, number of cryptids so listed — by actively stimulating investigations that climax in the formal discovery and scientific description of cryptids in Heuvelmans's list, in this current supplement, and in any future supplements. For this would finally bring to an end these animals' unjust, protracted exile from scientific respectability, and provide them with the coveted honor of official scientific recognition that they have so greatly, and for so very long, deserved.

As for those arch-cryptozoological skeptics who routinely dismiss reports of mystery beasts as mere fable and fantasy, yet who nevertheless will no doubt be reading this, I can but offer them the following valediction:

But remember always...that this is all a fairy-tale, and only fun and pretence; and, therefore, you are not to believe a word of it, even if it is true.

CHARLES KINGSLEY—*THE WATER-BABIES*

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